

Message Text

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TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, GW, UK

SUBJECT: VISIT OF BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY

CALLAGHAN TO BERLIN

1. SUMMARY: IN COURSE OF 24-HOUR VISIT TO BERLIN
JAN 21-22, BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN
UTILIZED OCCASION OF GOLDEN BOOK CEREMONY AND
PRESS CONFERENCE TO underscore CLOSE TIE BETWEEN
BERLIN SITUATION AND PROGRESS OF EUROPEAN DETENTE,
TO RESPOND TO RECENT GDR DENIAL OF CITY'S CONTINUING
FOUR POWER STATUS, AND, IN GENERAL, TO REASSURE
BERLINERS OF ALLIED COMMITMENT TO THEIR SECURITY
AND WELL BEING. CALLAGHAN ALSO EXPRESSED
EXPECTATION, IN REPLYING TO REMARKS OF GOVERNING
MAYOR SCHUETZ ON SUBJECT, THAT MODALITIES COULD BE
WORKED OUT TO PERMIT PARTICIPATION BY BERLINERS IN
PLANNED 1978 ELECTIONS TO EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT.
FOREIGN SECRETARY'S LUNCHEON MEETING WITH FRG
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FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER JAN 22 HAS YET TO RAISE

ANY SUBSTANTIVE SOVIET OR GDR COMPLAINTS, AND
BRITISH HERE ARE GENERALLY SATISFIED WITH VISIT
AND ITS LOCAL IMPACT. END SUMMARY.

2. BRITISH MISSION INFORMS US THAT CALLAGHAN VISIT
STEMMED SIMPLY FROM FEELING HERE AND IN FOREIGN
MINISTRY THAT TIME HAD COME FOR FURTHER VISIT
TO CITY BY HIGH-RANKING HMG OFFICIAL. FOREIGN
SECRETARY HAD ACCORDINGLY AGREED TO COMBINE VISIT
TO BERLIN WITH ALREADY SCHEDULED TRIP TO HAMBURG
TO ADDRESS OVERSEAS CLUB. WE NOTE THAT BOTH
DEFENSE MINISTER MASON AND HOME SECRETARY JENKINS
VISITED BERLIN IN NOVEMBER 1975 (75 USBERLIN A-162),
FORMER TO OFFICIATE AT BRITISH TATTOO AND LATTER
TO ATTEND SEMINAR AT ASPEN INSTITUTE. APPARENTLY,
HOWEVER, NEITHER VISIT WAS CONSIDERED VISIBLE
ENOUGH TO CONSTITUTE DESIRED CLEAR REAFFIRMATION
OF BRITISH COMMITMENT TO CITY. MOREOVER, FOREIGN
MINISTRY FELT NEED FOR VISIT TO REMIND BRITISH
PUBLIC WHY BRITAIN HAD COMMITMENT TO BERLIN.

3. AT GOLDEN BOOK CEREMONY EVENTING JAN 21, FOREIGN
SECRETARY underscored that allied military presence
in Berlin remained "vital guarantee" of city's
security. Berlin, he noted, no longer made head-
line news; but this did not alter fact that
situation of city was still "basically
unsatisfactory." Division of city continued and
very presence of wall constituted reminder that
"immensehprogress" still had to be made before it
could be said tha detente had really taken hold
in Europe. QA, Callaghan declared, had been key
factor in initiation of detente process, and
close tie continued to exist in British policy
between Berlin situation and European detente.
There could not be tensions in Berlin and detente
elsewhere, just as it was inconceivable for detente
to exist in Berlin and tensions in other parts of
Europe. In concluding golden book remarks,
Foreign Secretary asserted that security of Berlin
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AND OF GREAT BRITAIN WERE "INDISSOLUBLY LINKED."
FOR THIS REASON HE WELCOMED RECENT TRANSIT AGREEMENTS BETWEEN FRG AND GDR.

4. IN REMARKS ON SAME OCCASION GOVERNING MAYOR
SCHUETZ COMMENTED INTER ALIS ON BERLIN'S RELATIONSHIP TO EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, EXPRESSING CONFIDENCE
THAT BERLINERS WOULD CONTINUE TO BE ABLE TO

PARTICIPATE IN EUROPE'S INTEGRATION SINCE LEGAL ACTS OF EC HAD "FULL VALIDITY" IN BERLIN. "AND IF," HE CONTINUED, "THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IS TO BE DIRECTLY ELECTED IN 1978 WE WILL BE THERE, EVEN THOUGH THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT REQUIRES THAT A SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT ELECTORAL PROCEDURE BE FOLLOWED FOR BERLIN." AT PRESS CONFERENCE JAN 22, FOREIGN SECRETARY EXPRESSED ESSENTIAL AGREEMENT WITH SCHUETZ' STATEMENT, VOICING EXPECTATION (ALONG LINES FORMULATED AT BRUSSELS MEETING OF FOUR FOREIGN MINISTERS) THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO FIND MODALITIES TO PERMIT BERLIN REPRESENTATIVES, IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARTICULAR STATUS OF CITY, TO PARTICIPATE IN PLANNED DIRECT ELECTIONS.

5. IN REPLYING TO PRESS CONFERENCE QUESTION REGARDING RECENT ATTACK ON GOVERNING MAYOR SCHUETS IN GDR PRESS (USBERLIN 122), CALLAGHAN TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO REITERATE ALLIED VIEW THAT BERLIN'S STATUS CONTINUED TO REST ON WARTIME AND POSTWAR RIGHTS OF FOUR POWERS. FOUR POWER STATUS, HE ASSERTED, WAS HENCE VALID FOR ALL OF BERLIN AND QA HAD EFFECTED NO CHANGES IN THIS RESPECT.

6. FRG FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER FLEW UP TO BERLIN FOR LUNCHEON MEETING WITH CALLAGHAN JAN 22 (WE UNDERSTAND LITTLE SUBSTANCE WAS DISCUSSED SINCE THEY HAD JUST MET AT BRUSSELS). FRG AMBASSADOR TO UK, VON HASE, ALSO CAME TO BERLIN FOR VISIT AS FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER'S SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE, IN EUPHEMISM DESIGNED TO AVOID SOVIET IRE. AS OF MOMENT THERE HAVE BEEN NO SOVIET OR GDR PROTESTS AT GENSCHER'S PRESENCE HERE FOR THIS PURPOSE-- AS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THERE WERE WHEN GENSCHER ACCOMPANIED THE SECRETARY TO BERLIN LAST MAY 21--ALTHOUGH SOVIET EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVE TRENDELEV TOLD BRITISH POLAD MORE THAN WEEK AGO THAT SUCH A MEETING IN BERLIN MIGHT LEAD TO "COMPLICATIONS."

7. CALLAGHAN ALSO VISITED CITY (INCLUDING WALL) IN COMPANY OF GOVERNING MAYOR SCHUETZ WITH WHOM HE HIT IT OFF WELL.

8. PRESS COVERAGE OF CALLAGHAN VISIT HAS BEEN MODERATE BUT FAVORABLE. DER TAGESSPIEGEL, WHICH HAD FULLEST FACTUAL REPORTING, EDITORIALLY PRAISED VISIT AS DEMONSTRATION OF BRITISH READINESS TO MAINTAIN RESPONSIBILITY FOR BERLIN. MEETING

WITH GENSCHER, EDITORIAL NOTED, WAS EVIDENCE
THAT ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF THIS RESPONSIBILITY WAS
PROTECTION OF TIES THAT HAD GROWN UP BETWEEN CITY
AND FRG UNDER ALLIED AEGIS. SPRINGER PRESS,
WHICH AFFORDED PERHAPS LESS COVERAGE TO VISIT,
STRESSED FOREIGN SECRETARY'S REAFFIRMATION OF
FOUR POWER RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL BERLIN.
GEORGE

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